

(b) whether any study has been conducted to improve the success rate of the students enrolled in the university?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) The enrolment in IGNOU as well as the number of certificates, diplomas and degrees awarded to the students have been increasing over the past few years.

(b) No exclusive study has been conducted so far to improve the success rate of the students enrolled in the university.

Failure of Mid-Day Meal Scheme

3359. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Mid-Day Meal facilities to the school going children are totally a failure in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware that the number of complaints have come to the notice of Government that a lot of children are suffering from food poisoning; and

(c) if so, the corrective measures taken in this regard and the action being taken against the authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALIASHRAF FATMI): (a) No such reports have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) and (c) Certain instances of food poisoning have come to the notice of Government. Action taken by the concerned State Governments is given in the enclosed Statement (See below). The Central Government has been continuously urging the State Governments to—

- ensure that food is cooked in a hygienic environment
- food items are stored in dry and safe places
- drinking water is adequately made available
- cooks are properly trained in adopting hygienic habits.

Besides, States have also been urged to involve the parents and community members to supervise the cooking and serving mid-day meal to children.

Statement

Action taken by the State Governments against certain instances of food poisoning

| Sl. No. | State | Details of cases of substandard/unhygienic food |
|---------|----------------|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1. | Andhra Pradesh | The State Govt. has informed that 1839 children were fallen ill. The State Govt. has also informed that after inquiry, in cases where it was proved that the children had fallen ill due to negligence of the implementing agencies, such agencies were replaced. Appropriate warning has also been given to the school authorities to be vigilant. |
| 2. | Karnataka | The State Govt. has reported that 1242 children were taken ill in 34 schools. The cooks who were found to be negligent were removed and new cooks appointed. |
| 3. | Maharashtra | The State Govt. has informed that 208 children fell ill in four districts (temporary uneasiness and vomiting sensation). After enquiry in Jalgaon district, an FIR was filed. |
| 4. | Orissa | The State Govt. has informed that 39 children of Laxman Nath Primary School of Balasore District fell ill as the cook had mistakenly used Ammonium Sulphate considering it as edible salt. The cook was removed and the headmaster of the school was placed under suspension. In another incident, 15 children of Madhupur Primary School of Cuttak District had fallen ill. The State Govt. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----|---------------|---|
| | | has reported that the headmaster was placed under suspension. |
| 5. | Rajasthan | <p>The State Govt. has informed that 10 children were reported ill in Rajasmand district. Appropriate steps were taken by the State Govt. to terminate the services of the cook and transfer the headmaster and teachers concerned.</p> <p>In another incident, 61 children were affected in Karauli district. State Govt. has reported that disciplinary action has been initiated against the Block Development Officer, Additional Chief Executive of Zila Parishad and School Headmistress and the Teacher.</p> |
| 6. | Tamil Nadu | The State Govt. has informed that 77 children were taken ill in Muttavakkam Panchayat Union Primary School of Kancheepuram district. Forensic test revealed that the toor dal used for cooking contained fungus, the presence of which rendered the food unfit for human consumption. The nutrition meal organiser, cook and assistant were placed under suspension for negligence. |
| 7. | Uttarakhand | The State Govt. has reported that 2 children of Gandhinagar Primary School of Nainital District fell ill due to consumption of stale food. The headmistress of the school was suspended. |
| 8. | Uttar Pradesh | The State Govt. has reported that 282 children in four districts were taken ill. The State Govt. investigated complaints and it has been reported that First Information Report (FIR) has been lodged in two cases with the police and appropriate action has been taken. |

| 1 | 2 | 3 |
|----|-------------|---|
| 9. | West Bengal | The State Govt. has informed that 60 children of Ramachandrapur Primary School of Nadia District fell ill on 28.2.05 due to food poisoning as the food got infected by insecticide spread by an owner of the Banana Plantation firm located close to the school. An FIR has been lodged against the owner of the plantation firm. In another case, 85 children of Metyadahar Primary School of Paschim Midnapur District fell ill on 4.5.05 after consumption of mid-day meal. The State Government had reported that the incident was inquired and no criminal intention or willful misdeed was found. |

Vocationalization of secondary education

3360. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the scheme of vocationalization of Secondary Education at +2 level in the country; and

(b) the criteria adopted in selecting institutions and courses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Vocationalisation of Secondary Education was launched in February, 1988. Under the Scheme, financial assistance is provided to State Governments for introduction of vocational courses in the higher secondary stage. Since inception of the scheme, about 9500 schools have been approved to conduct 21000 sections with an enrolment capacity of around 10 lakh students.

(b) Selection of the institutions and courses is the prerogative of the State Governments. However, under the scheme, initially 82 courses were identified. Presently, about 150 courses are being offered.